

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR XA RH
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION VIEWS ON RHODESIA SETTLEMENT PLAN

1. ON 30 SEPTEMBER SEVERAL MAURITIAN NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THE "STRONG POSSIBILITY" THAT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE BEING CALLED BY GREAT BRITAIN TO SETTLE THE RHODESIA PROBLEM WILL BE HELD IN MAURITIUS. SOME PAPERS REPORTED (INACCURATELY) THAT PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM MADE THIS PROPOSAL TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLELE WHEN THEY MET LAST WEEKEND.

2. LE MAURICIEN (INDEPENDENT) REPORTED THE VIEWS OF THE LEADERS OF THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS. GAETAN DUVAL, LEADER OF THE MAURITIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PAPER: "WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS COULD ASSIST IN PUTTING AN END TO THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT AND IN PROVIDING THE LOCATION FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE BELIEVE THAT IF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS WISHES TO PLAY A TRULY CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE, OUR AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, MR. RAMPHUL, SHOULD BE TOLD TO SHUT UP. RAMPHUL'S STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE KISSINGER PLAN IS NOTHING BUT EYE-WASH IS, TO SAY THE LEAST, UNTIMELY AND INOPPORTUNE. THE

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PMSD, MOREOVER, WILL RAISE A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION IN THE

ASSEMBLY ON TUESDAY ON THIS SUBJECT, UNDERLINING THE INOPPORTUNE CHARACTER OF THIS STATEMENT AT A TIME WHEN (FOREIGN MINISTER) WALTER HIMSELF PROPOSES TO INVITE THE CONFERENCE TO MAURITIUS. IF WE AGREE THAT MAURITIUS SHOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE RESOLUTION OF THIS CRISIS, WE SHOULD BE TAKING A POSITION THAT IS NOT ONLY NEUTRAL BUT CERTAINLY NOT HOSTILE TO THE PROPOSITIONS OF KISSINGER, WHO WILL BE, WHETHER ONE LIKES IT OR NOT, THE ARCHITECT OF THIS CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE A GOOD THING IF SOMEONE WOULD SHUT RAMPHUL UP."

3. PAUL BERENGER, LEADER OF THE MARXIST MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT PARTY, WAS QUOTED IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS: "THE MMM, IN THIS RHODESIAN CRISIS, STANDS WITH THE "FRONT-LINE" LEADERS (NYERERE, KHAMA, NETO, MACHEL, KAUNDA). IT IS CLEAR THAT IN THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR IT IS THEY WHO ARE NOW PLAYING THE IMPORTANT ROLE AND NOT RAMGOOLAM, PRESIDENT OF THE OAU. IF THE ISLAND OF MAURITIUS CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE SETTLEMENT OF THIS CRISIS IN ONE MANNER OR ANOTHER, WE WOULD REJOICE IN IT, BECAUSE THIS WOULD BE A CAPITAL EVENT FOR THE COUNTRY. SUCH A CONFERENCE COULD NOT AND SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE PREPARATION OF GENERAL ELECTIONS IN MAURITIUS".
KEELEY

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